

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Sedgwick
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:

Old Sedgwick County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

504 N. Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Wichita

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

no. 4, Garner Shriver

STATE

CODE

COUNTY:

CODE

Kansas

20

Sedgwick

173

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Comments _____ _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Sedgwick County

STREET AND NUMBER:

Sedgwick County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Wichita

STATE:

Kansas 67202

CODE

20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

Sedgwick County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Wichita

STATE

Kansas 67202

CODE

20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Work Projects Administration

DATE OF SURVEY: 1939

☐ Federal☒ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Sedgwick County Courthouse is built of grayish native stone, generally with sawn faces, but sits on a rough-hewn stone base. It is primarily a three-story structure with two additional stories over portions of the building and a full basement which is partially exposed above grade. The facades are divided horizontally at each story with a decorative stone band traversing the entire perimeter. The roof is distinguished from the wall by a projected cornice supported on brackets. Crowning each corner of the structure is a four-sided, steep-pitched hip roof covered with shingles. The central tower is similarly roofed. Windows are designed in two forms, rectangular openings with stone sills and flat stone lintels and narrow windows with stone sills and circular arched tops. A large arched opening is superimposed above each entrance and in turn an ornate pediment is superimposed above each arch.

The interior of the building was remodeled a number of times to meet demands for increased office space. The exterior has been changed also with the removal of steps which led to the second floor and subsequent changes in the entrances at those locations. The central tower was originally six stories high with clock faces six feet high on the four sides. The upper portion of this tower including the clock was removed for safety reasons.

The old Sedgwick County Courthouse is an example of Renaissance influence architecture beautifully executed in stone.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1888

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☒ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☒ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old Sedgwick County Courthouse is one of the oldest and most impressive of the early Kansas courthouses. It was designed by Wichita architect W. R. McPherson. Land for the purpose of constructing a courthouse was donated to the county on July 23, 1874, by D. S. Munger, a pioneer Wichita resident. The contract for construction was awarded to W. H. Sternberg of Wichita on August 30, 1888, for \$197,329.

After 71 years of service as Sedgwick county's seat of government, it gave way in 1959 to a new eleven-story courthouse. Presently the first and second floors are used by the welfare department and the Civil Air Patrol. The rest of the building is unoccupied and continues to deteriorate. Concerned citizens are attempting to develop innovative plans for the use of the old courthouse but so far to no avail. Its fate today is as unsettled as when it was vacated.

In a 1964 visit to Wichita Robert Garvey, Jr., who at that time was executive director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, encouraged the preservation of the old courthouse by saying, "This building represents the growth and development of Sedgwick county and is an accumulation of total history in this area."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

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STATE Kan	
COUNTY Sedgwick	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9.

"Silent Clock Brings Back Memories," Wichita Eagle, April 1, 1964.

"Use of Old Courthouse Encouraged by Visitor," Wichita Beacon, May 27, 1964.

Wichita Beacon, Jan. 2, 1938, March 29, 1937, Aug. 27, 1965.

Wichita Daily Eagle, November 20, 1888.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Courthouse Ahead of Schedule," Wichita Morning Eagle, June 8, 1958.
 Dougherty, Dale, "Heritage Foundation Renews Bid to Preserve and Rejuvenate Old Sedgwick County Courthouse," Wichita Morning Eagle, Aug. 30, 1963.
 "Help Save the Old Courthouse," (Wichita, Wichita Historical Museum Association, n.d.), 4 page brochure.
 Pearson, Charles, "What Can Be Done with the Old Courthouse?" Wichita Eagle and Beacon, Feb. 25, 1963.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		37 41 39	97 20 15	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1-2

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant Richard Pankratz, Director, Kansas Historic Sites Survey	
ORGANIZATION		DATE	
Kansas State Historical Society		Feb. 8, 1971	
STREET AND NUMBER:			
120 W. 10th			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	CODE
Topeka		Kansas 66612	29

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name _____

Nyle H. Miller

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U. S. G. S. 7 1/2' Quadrangle
Map Wichita East (1961)
Scale 1: 24,000
Lat. 37° 41' 39"
Long. 97° 20' 15"

